

# *9 April 2006*

## *Sunday*

### **READINGS**

Psalm 29; Zechariah 9:9-12; 1 Timothy 6:12-16; Luke 19:36-48

### **DEVOTION**

This is the event Christians celebrate on Palm Sunday. The people lined the road, praising God, waving palm branches, and throwing their cloaks in front of the colt as it passed before them. “Long live the King” was the meaning of their joyful shouts, because they knew Jesus was fulfilling the prophecy in Zechariah 9:9. “Your King is coming! He is the Righteous One, the Victor! Yet he is lowly, riding on a donkey’s colt!” To announce that he was indeed the Messiah, Jesus chose a time when all Israel would be gathered at Jerusalem, a place where huge crowds could see him, and a way of proclaiming his mission that was unmistakable. The people went wild. Now they were sure their liberation was at hand.

The people who were praising God for giving them a king had the wrong idea about Jesus. They were sure he would be a national leader who would restore their nation to its former glory, and thus they were deaf to the words of their prophets and blind to Jesus’ real mission. When it became apparent that Jesus was not going to fulfill their hopes, many people turned against him. Luke 19:41-42 says, as he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace, but now it is hidden from your eyes.”

How many of us have the wrong idea about Jesus? The result is usually discouragement, disillusionment, and frustration. The people of old were looking for a king. Jesus would have been their King, if only they would have received him on God’s condition. God’s condition was so much better than any of them could ever have imagined. How many of us today want to be in control and tell God what is best for us? I suspect many and maybe most of us. How many of us have become discouraged because we don’t believe God has answered our prayers? Jesus would say to us today, “If only you would know that I have answered your prayers and have provided the greatest gift ever imagined, Eternal Life through me.” I encourage you today to put your trust in the hand of God. Let Him fulfill His dream for your life and be willing to receive Jesus into your life as both your Savior and your Lord.

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